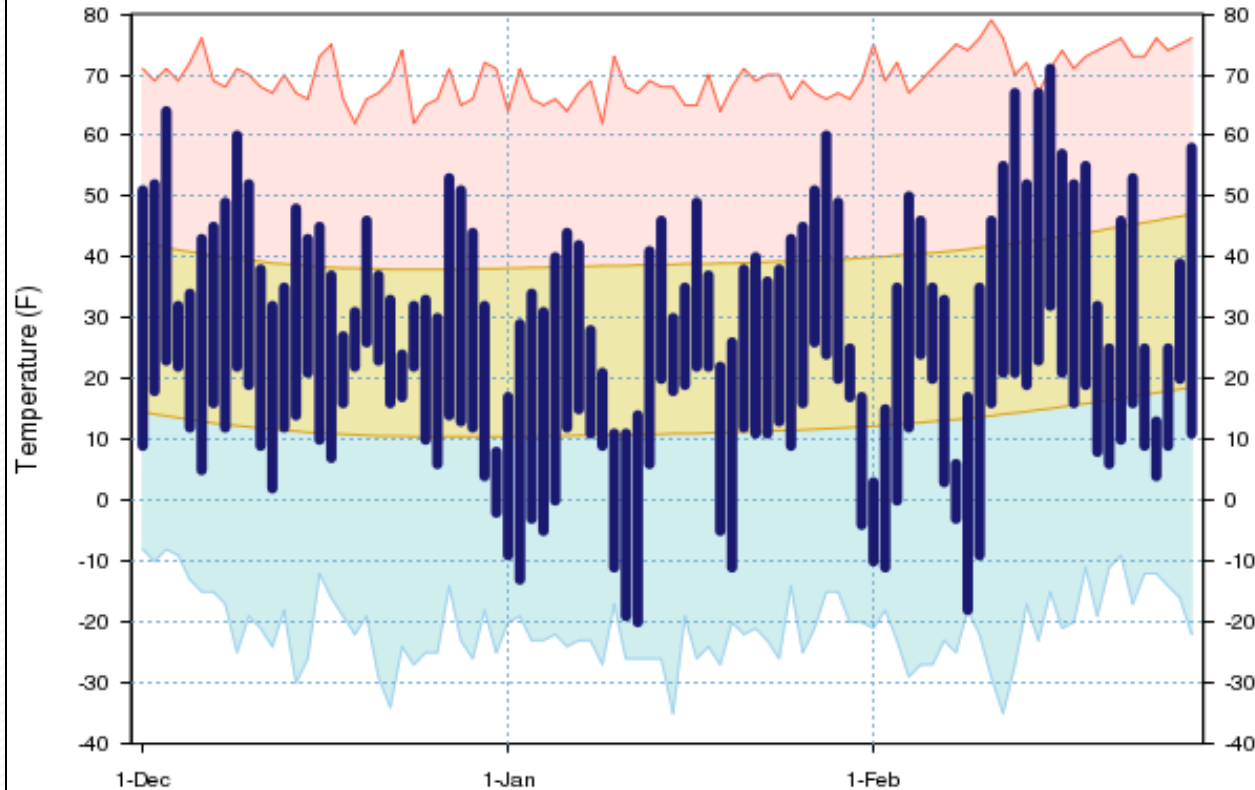


# State of the Climate across Western and North Central Nebraska

By Matt Masek  
November 23, 2011

# What is a normal Winter?

Temperature Summary for North Platte Area  
Dec 1, 2010 - Feb 28, 2011



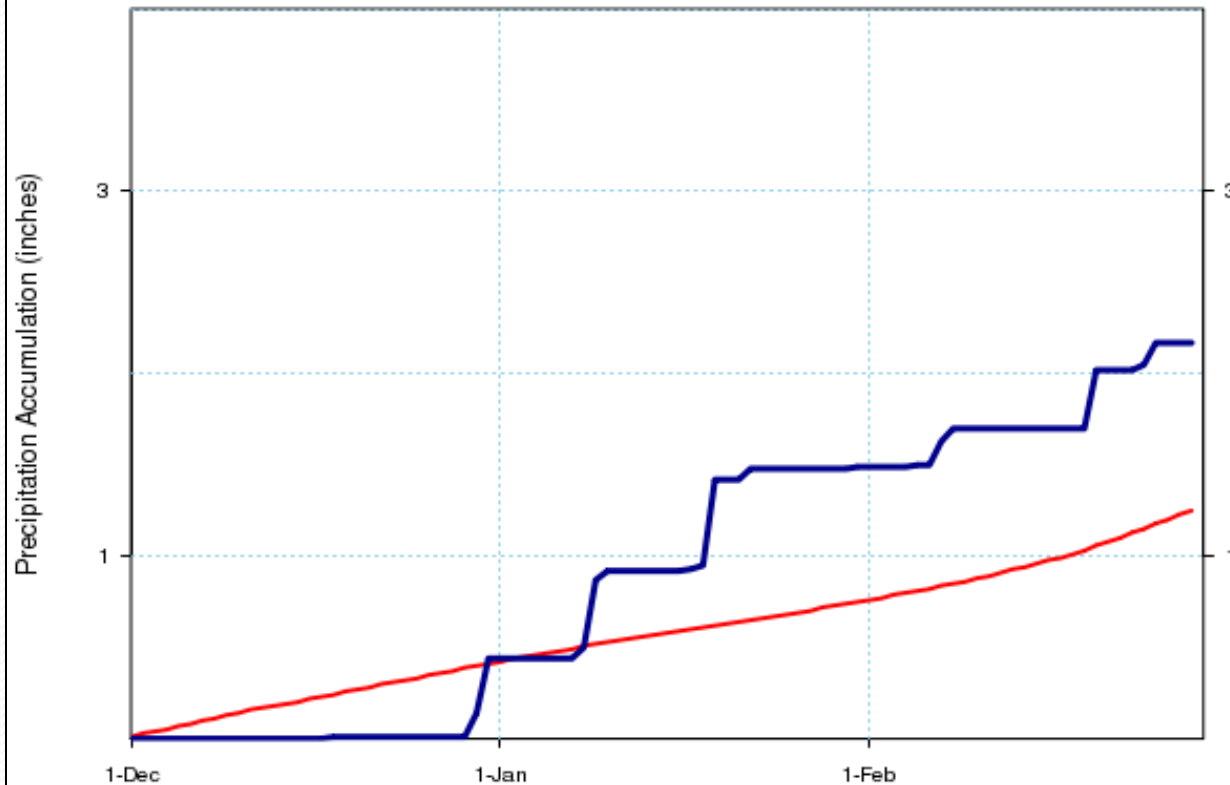
Observed daily maximum and minimum temperatures are connected by dark blue bars.  
Area between normal maximum and minimum temperatures has tan shading.  
Red line connects record high temperatures. Light blue line connects record low temperatures.

A normal winter across the central plains typically has its ups and downs. The average highs are close to 40 degrees and average lows are in the teens, however records range from the 60s and 70s to the -20s and -30s.

This graph shows the records (highs-red and lows-blue) and normal highs and lows (tan) along with last winter observed (dark blue bars) for North Platte.

# What is a normal Winter?

Precipitation Summary for North Platte Area  
Dec 1 - Feb 29



Heavy dark blue line is precipitation accumulation for 2010-2011. Smooth red line is normal.

Along with the ups and downs in temperatures, precipitation (typically snowfall) will come and go as storm systems move across the area. This time of year the total precipitation is much lower than in the spring and summer months.

This graph shows the average (**red line**) along with last winter's observed (dark blue line) for North Platte.

# Winter Statistics

	Ave High	Ave Low	Ave Temp	Precip	Snowfall	Days Lows < 0	Days Highs > 32	Days Highs 50+	Days Highs 60+
Average	38.7	13.4	26.1	1.37	13.7	12.6	61.5	22.6	6.4
Max	47.2	22.9	34.2	4.23	34.3	42	86	46	23
Year	1991-92	1930-31	1991-92	1913-14	2006-07	1978-79	1991-92	2005-06	1980-81
Min	23.7	1.0	12.4	0.14	1.2	0	25	0	0
Year	1978-79	1978-79	1978-79	1980-81	1980-81	1930-31 1991-92	1978-79	1978-79	10 times latest 2009-10
2006-07	35.1	10.3	22.7	3.98	34.3	20	48	11	5
2007-08	38.3	10.5	24.4	0.97	12.9	17	61	15	5
2008-09	41.7	11.5	26.6	1.53	18.2	11	67	25	11
2009-10	33.5	11.5	22.5	1.66	26.1	13	47	8	0
2010-11	37.8	10.4	24.1	2.17	29.5	16	59	20	6

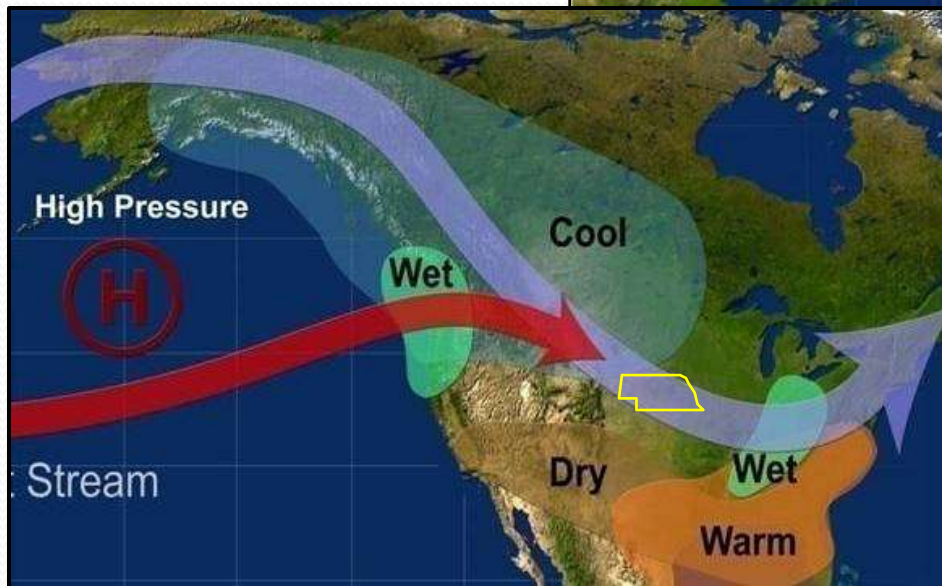
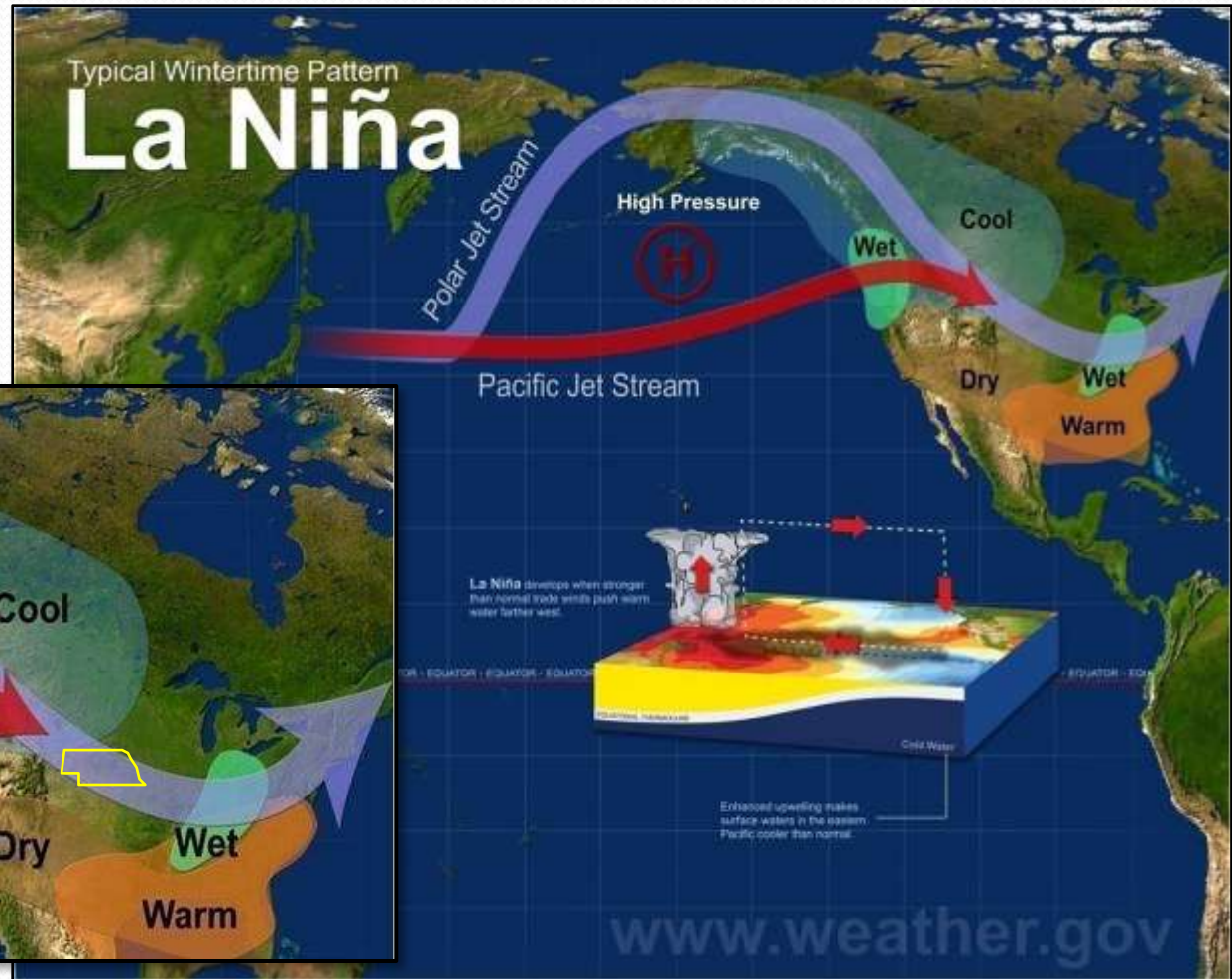
Above are some statistics for the three months (December, January and February) for North Platte. Highlighted in red numbers are from last winter .



What is expected for this winter?  
(2011-2012)

# La Niña has developed

## La Niña Typical Wintertime Pattern

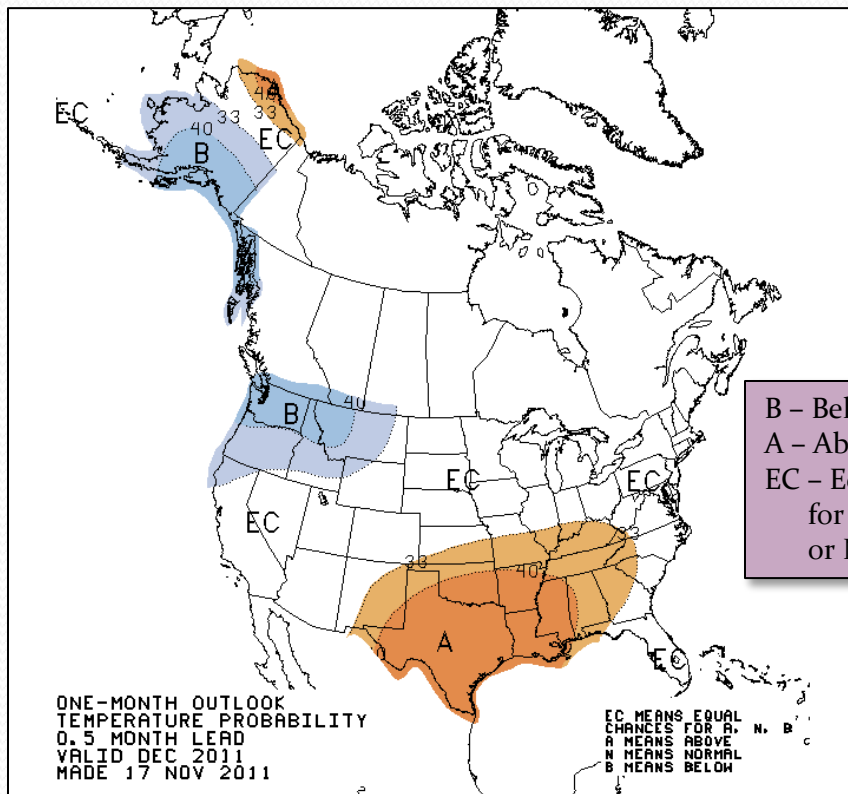




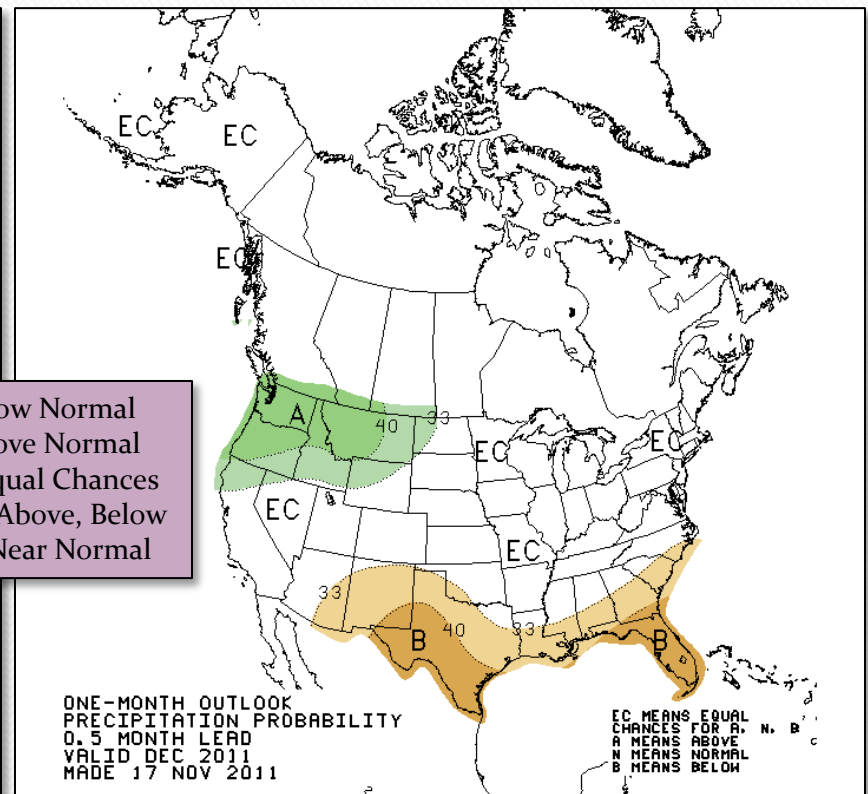
# Climate Prediction Center

## Outlook - December

### Temperature Probability



### Precipitation Probability

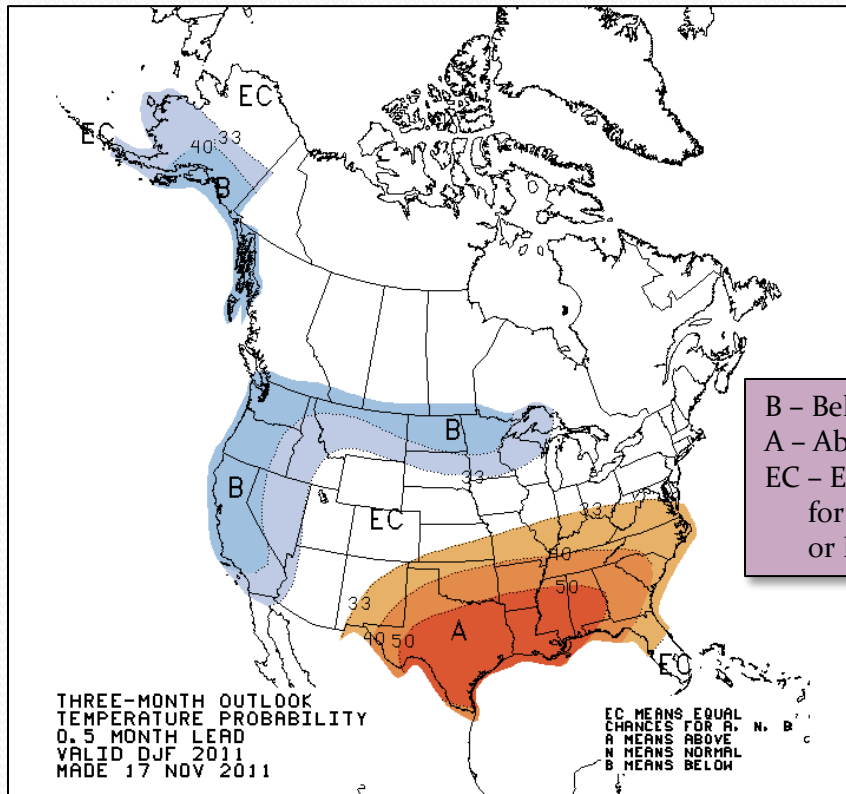


The latest outlook for December has western and north central Nebraska in an equal chance for above, below or near normal temperature and precipitation.

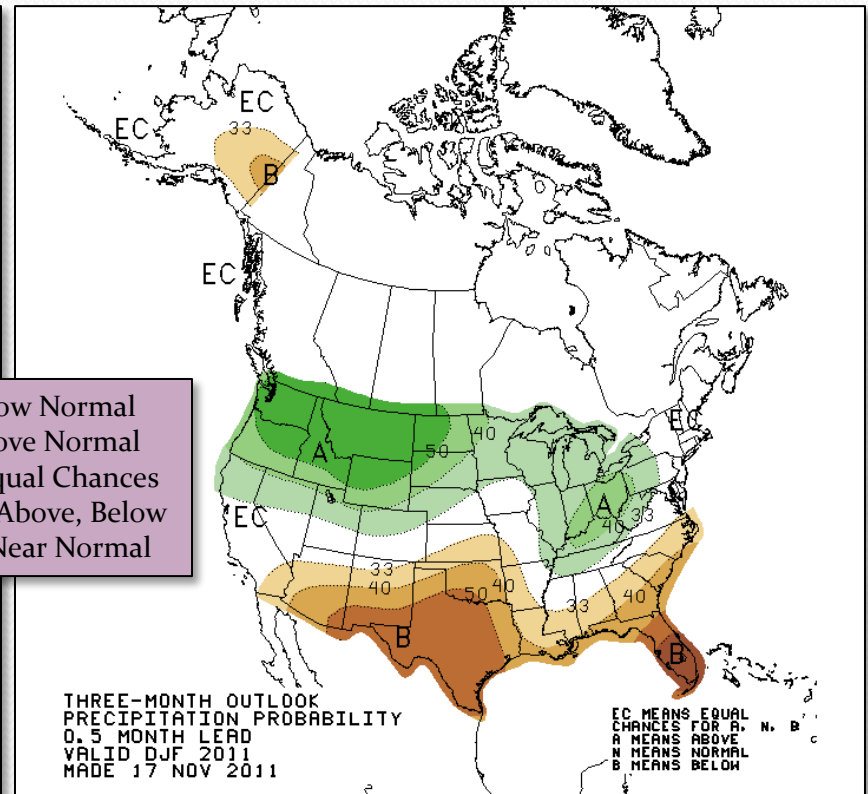
# Climate Prediction Center

## Outlook - December, January, February

### Temperature Probability



### Precipitation Probability



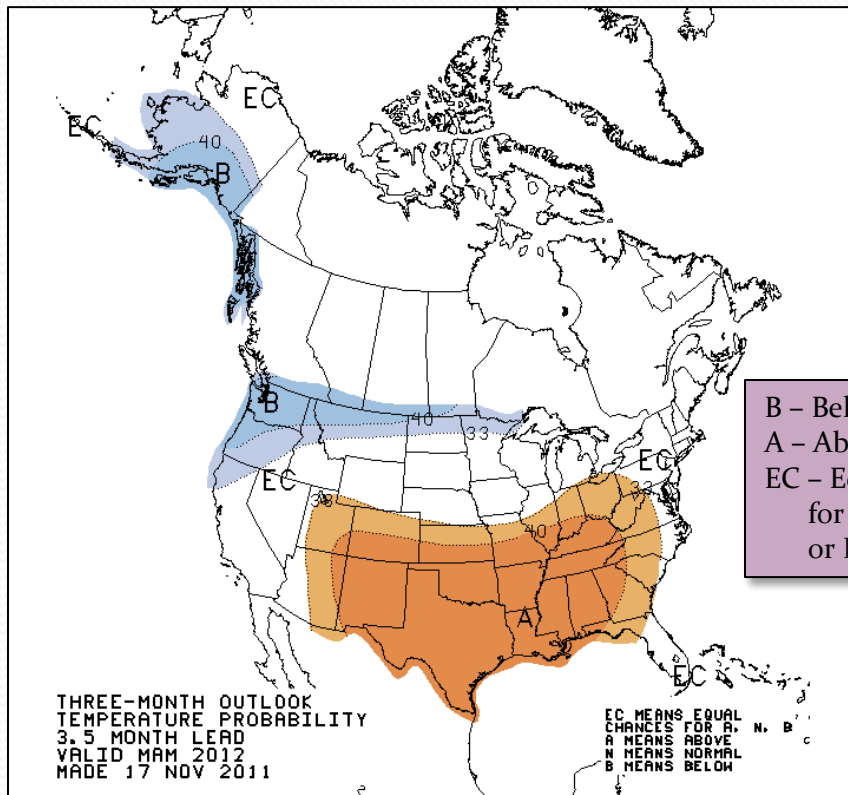
The latest winter outlook for the three months of December, January, February has western and north central Nebraska in an equal chance for above, below or near normal temperature. However, there is a higher chance for above normal precipitation for most of western and north central Nebraska.



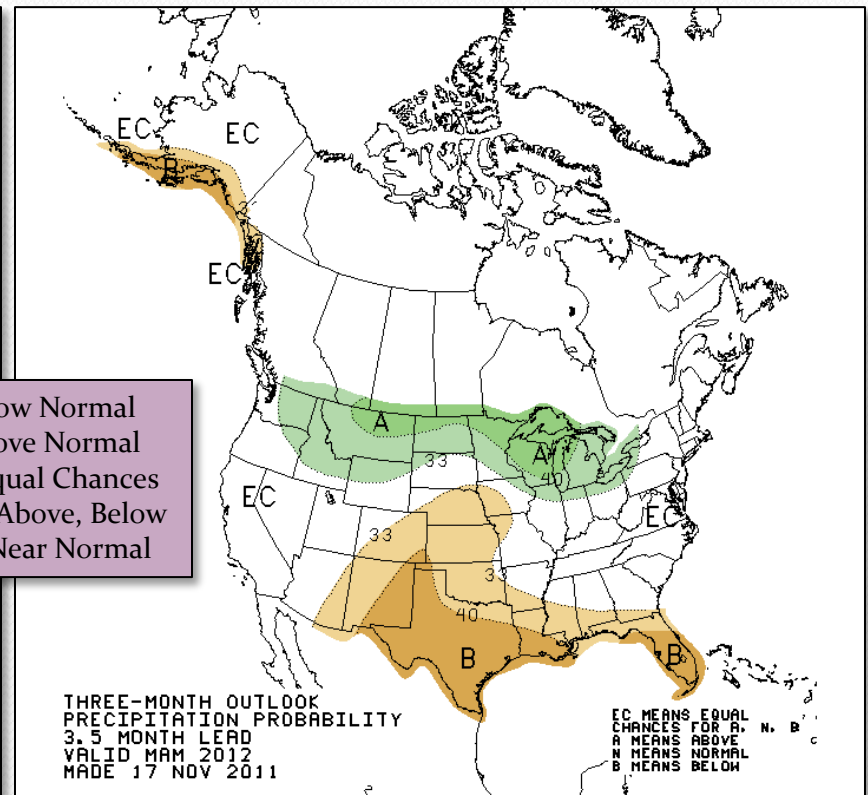
# Climate Prediction Center

## Spring Outlook - March, April, May

Temperature Probability



Precipitation Probability



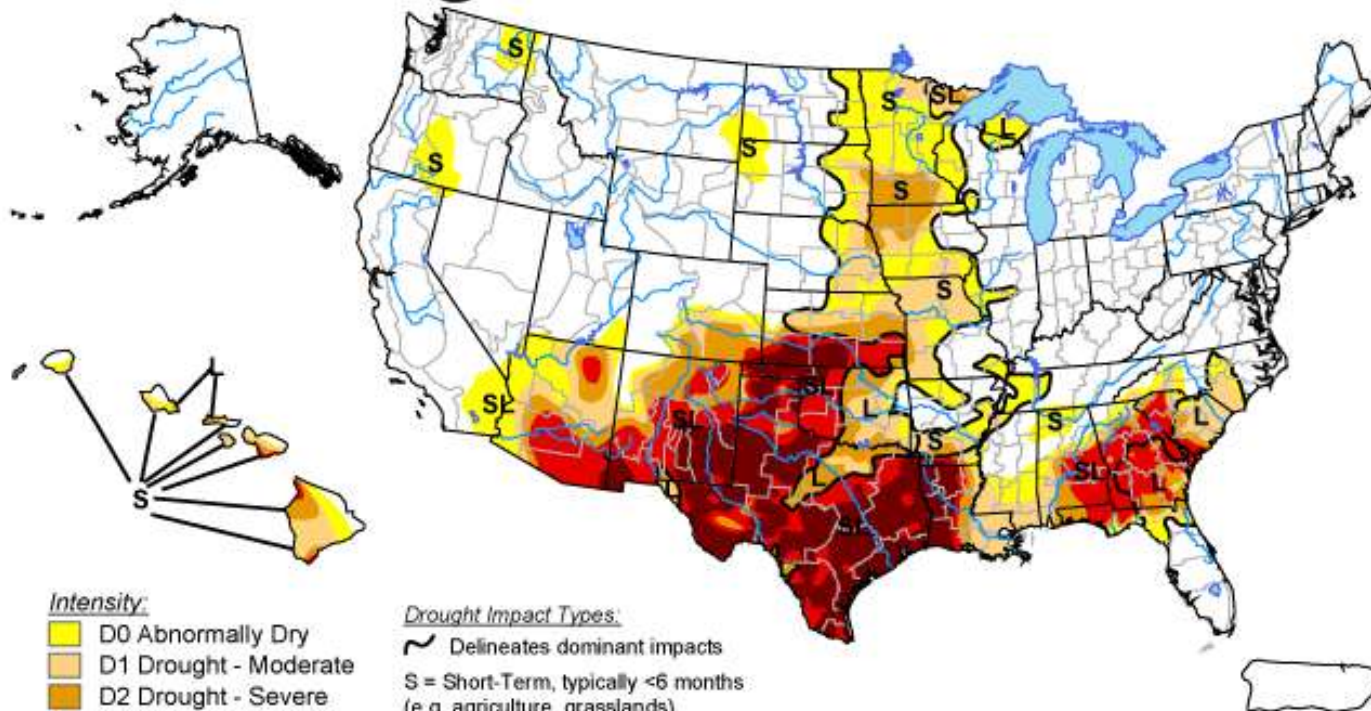
The latest spring outlook for the three months of March, April, May has western and north central Nebraska in an equal chance for above, below or near normal temperature. However, there is a higher chance for below normal precipitation for most of western and north central Nebraska.

# Current Drought State

## U.S. Drought Monitor

November 22, 2011

Valid 7 a.m. EST



### Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

### Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months  
(e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months  
(e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary  
for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

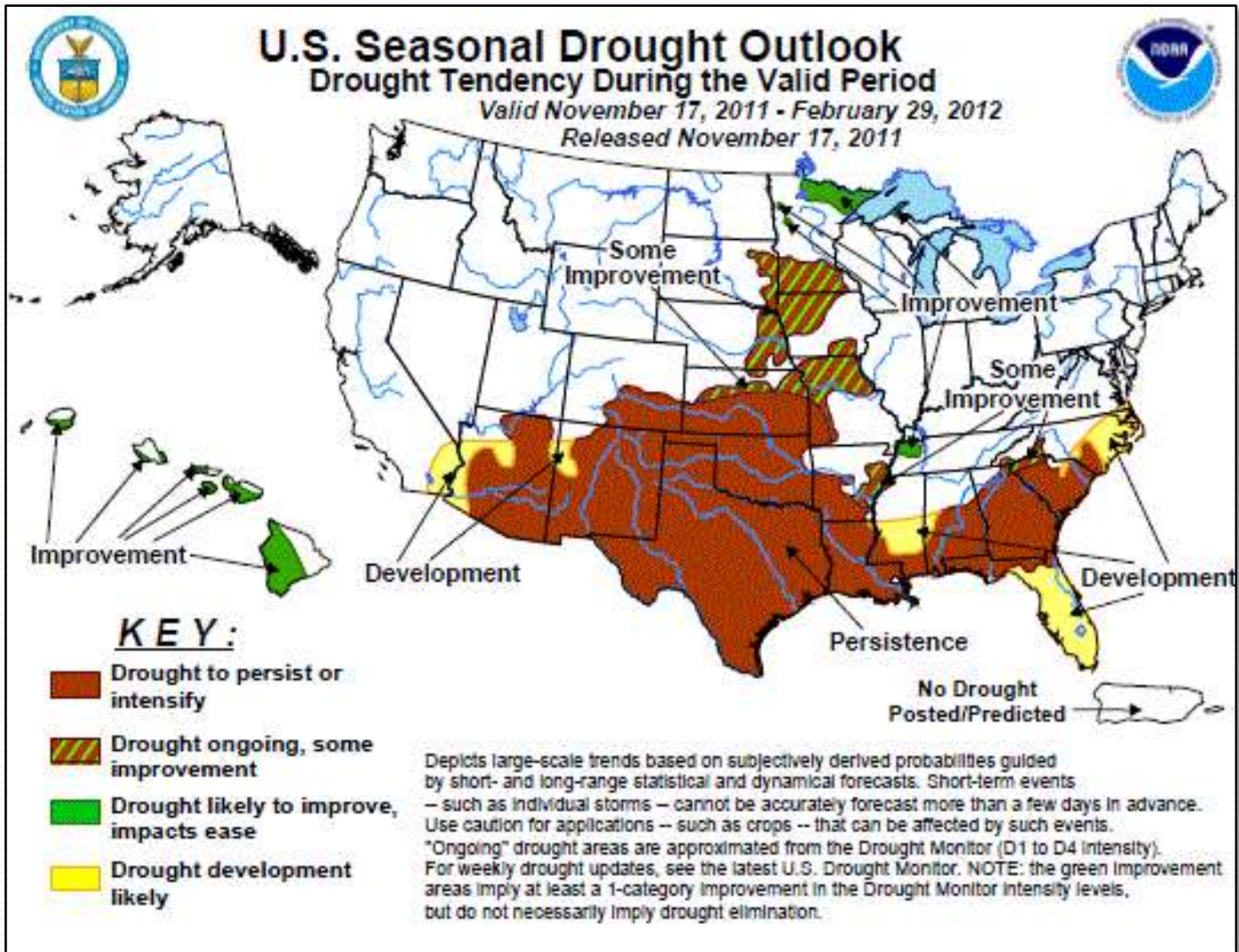


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# No Drought Conditions Expected through the Winter for Western and North Central Nebraska



# Final Thoughts

- Due to La Niña and recent winter trends there is a higher expectation of a wet pattern to develop over the winter months of December, January and February, then turning more to a dry pattern in the spring months of March, April and May.
- The outlook for temperatures is much less certain. There is a higher chance for the northern plains to be below normal while the southern plains are expected to be above normal. However the central plains has an equal chance for above, below or near normal temperatures.
- Exceptional drought conditions persist over the southern plains, however it is not expected to expand north at this time.